AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

[c01] (Currently Amended) A video recorder, comprising:

a processor communicating with memory, the memory ~~for~~ storing video data of an event captured by a camera, the video data comprising a series of picture frames;

a loop buffer also storing the video data of the event captured by the camera, the loop buffer storing the video data for a predetermined duration of time, after which the video data is transferred or discarded; ~~and~~

a set of rules stored in the memory, the set of rules determining when to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory[[;]];

when the processor determines that the set of rules is unsatisfied, then the processor discards the contents of the loop buffer;

when the processor determines that a rule is satisfied, then the processor transfers the contents of the loop buffer to the memory to provide video data that precedes the event; and

the processor tags the preceding video data with metadata describing the rule that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory

~~wherein the video recorder utilizes the loop buffer to provide video data preceding the event~~.

[c02] (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a mass-storage device, the mass storage device storing the video data of the event.

[c03] (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises an optical storage device.

[c04] (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a memory card.

[c05] (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a flash memory storage device.

[c06] (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising an interface to a communications network.

[c07] (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the set of rules specifies vehicular data that causes a transfer of the contents of the loop buffer into the memory devices memory.

[c08] (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising a switch to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory.

[c09] (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the loop buffer also stores audio data of the event captured by a microphone.

[c10] (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising an interface with a vehicle controller to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory.

[c11] (Currently Amended) A video recorder according to claim 1, ~~wherein the set of rules tags the video data with metadata, the metadata providing a description of a rule that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory~~ further comprising:

means for receiving vehicular data describing powertrain management system information, electrical management system information, and chassis management system information; and

means for storing the set of rules specifying the vehicular data that causes the transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory.

[c12] (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

storing video data of an event in memory, the video data captured by a camera and comprising a series of picture frames;

storing the video data of the event in a loop buffer, the loop buffer storing the video data for a predetermined duration of time, after which the video data is transferred or discarded;

applying a set of rules to transfer the contents of the loop buffer to the memory[[,]];

when the set of rules is unsatisfied, then discarding the contents of the loop buffer;

when a rule is satisfied, then transferring the contents of the loop buffer to the memory to provide video data that precedes the event; and

tagging the preceding video data with metadata describing the rule that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory

~~wherein the method provides video data preceding the event~~.

[c13] (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to a mass-storage device.

[c14] (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to an optical storage device.

[c15] (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to a flash memory storage device.

[c16] (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer via a communications network.

[c17] (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising interfacing with a switch to transfer video data of the event.

[c18] (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring audio data of the event.

[c19] (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising interfacing with a vehicle controller to transfer video data of the event.

[c20] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, further comprising ~~tagging the video data with metadata, the metadata providing a description of a rule that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory;~~

receiving vehicular data describing powertrain management system information, electrical management system information, and chassis management system information; and

storing the set of rules specifying the vehicular data that causes the transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory.